

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of independent claim 7 as now amended is respectfully requested together with allowance of claims 9-15 depended therefrom for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 7 includes the subject matter of claims 7 and 8 and specifies that Applicant's acoustic projector comprises an even number of longitudinally joined cylindrical shell segments and an even number of spaced drivers mounted within each of the shell segments, such as shown particularly in Figs. 3-5. It has been discovered that this arrangement reduces stress and interaction and provides for a stiffer transducer. It has been found that when there is an odd number of drivers in a shell segment or an uneven number of longitudinally joined shell segments, that the middle driver and/or shell segment absorbs energy from the other two adjacent drivers or shell segments which can damage or actually destroy the intermediate driver or shell segment. Applicant has discovered that when an even number of shell segments are longitudinally joined with each of the shell segments having and containing an even number of spaced drivers that undesired stresses on the acoustic projector is materially reduced if not eliminated.

The Office Action in rejecting claim 8 relies only on Fig. 5 of Kompanek (U.S. Patent No. 4,651,044). It is respectfully submitted that Kompanek and especially Fig. 5, nor any of the other figures and disclosure thereof, does not disclose or suggest in any manner such a constructions as now set forth in amended claim 7. Kompanek in Fig. 5 shows only a single shell segment containing an even number of drivers. There is no suggestion of providing an acoustic projector having an even number of longitudinally joined shell segments as shown in Fig. 5, each containing an even number of spaced drivers in order to eliminate or materially reduce undesirable stresses on an intermediate shell segment. Fig. 5 of Kompanek only shows one feature of Applicant's invention, that is, the use of an even number of transducers or drivers within a single shell segment, but in no way suggests nor render obvious the joiner of two, four, six or more (even number of shell segments) together, each of which must contain an

even number of drivers to achieve the results as that achieved by Applicant's invention.

The cited reference Kazmar (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,518), shows a single shell construction in Fig. 4 containing three drivers (an uneven number) and in no manner in the drawing figures or specification suggest the longitudinal arrangement of an even number of such shell segments, each containing an even number of drivers to form the improved acoustic projector of Applicant's as now defined in claim 7. Flanagan (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,538) also shows only a single shell segment in Fig. 1 containing a plurality of spaced drivers and in no manner suggests the joining of two or more even number of such shell segments, in a longitudinal fashion, wherein each of the shell segments must contain an even number of spaced drivers as now defined in claim 7. Accordingly it is submitted that neither of the other two references show, suggest or teach an acoustic projector as now defined in claim 7.

The remaining dependent claims 9-15 disclose other features of Applicant's invention, which when combined with the elements of claim 7, clearly distinguish over the three cited references.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowability for the claims. It is requested that the Examiner call the undersigned if any questions remain after this amendment in order to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted this 18TH day of August, 2006.

SAND & SEBOLT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sand", written in a cursive style.

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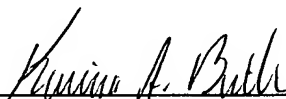
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